



PROFILE - WEEKLY DNR



Current Status of Legislation Total Number of Bills: 16

SB 13	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Senators Dyson, Hollinger, Conway, Astle, Hafer, Munson, Stone, Middleton, and Stoltzfus	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Finfishing - Closure of State Waters	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 202	Bill is in the House - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Delegates Owings, Bohanan, Boutin, Cane, Cluster, Donoghue, Frush, Harrison, Hennessy, Jameson, Jennings, McIntosh, Minnick, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Rudolph, Sossi, Weir, and Wood	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Finfishing - Closure of State Waters	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills authorize DNR to close an area of state waters to all finfishing after having met certain criteria, including demonstrating the necessity of closure and developing protocols to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the closure. At least one public hearing must be held. The public hearing shall be well publicized, and a written report about the closure shall be made available before the public hearing. Following a closure of state waters, DNR shall re-evaluate the effectiveness of any closure in accomplishing its overall management objectives, and determine the appropriateness of any management modifications.

The bills are a result of a coalition of many different interests who met during the interim.

SB 19	Bill is in the Senate -Unfavorable Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Pipkin	
Entitled	Environment - Dredged Material Management - Duties of Executive Committee	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

Adds a requirement to the Executive Committee, who provides oversight on the State's plans for dredged material management, to review the State's dredging needs and requirements in conjunction with stakeholders, and to recommend ways to minimize quantities of dredged materials while sustaining maritime commerce in the Port of Baltimore

SB 50	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Fishing Licenses and Authorizations - Suspension and Revocation	

Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs
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This is a departmental bill that includes the suspension or revocation of recreational fishing licenses for conservation violations, in addition to those penalties already in place for just commercial license holders. The bill contains uncodified language that specifies that DNR shall adopt regulations relating to the suspension and revocation of licenses and the assignment of points for specific fishery offenses in accordance with the recommendations made by the joint workgroup created by the Tidal Fish Advisory Commission and the Sport Fish Advisory Commission.

<u>SB 57</u>		
Sponsored By	Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Hunting - Chesapeake Forest Lands	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This is a departmental bill that delays from the 2005-2006 season to the 2007-2008 hunting season the requirement to open up at least 50% of the current private leases on Chesapeake Forest land to public hunting.

<u>SB 58</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Forest or Park Wardens - Term	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This is a departmental bill that deletes language in current law that refers to a two-year term for a forest or park warden, and instead retains language in the statute that leaves the duration of the term at the discretion of the Secretary of DNR.

<u>SB 59</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Shoreline and Blind Site Licensing	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This is a departmental bill that extends landowner licensing to a five-year period and actually lowers the cumulative fee over this period (from \$20 annually to \$60 for five years). Non-landowner (squatter) licensing will remain annual. Directs funds not spent on administering the program to the Wildlife Management and Protection Fund, as a condition of participation in the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Program. Requires applicants for squatter sites to possess a current or prior year MD hunting license.

The bill has been amended in the Senate to include the counties of Caroline, Dorchester and Talbot as those counties where only the riparian landowner or their designee may erect and maintain a stationary blind or blind site.

<u>SB 60</u>		
Sponsored By	Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	

Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Recreational Fishing Licenses
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs

This is a departmental bill that generally raises fees for tidal or nontidal individual licenses by \$4 each (currently range from \$5 - \$20.50), and raises the Sport Fishing License Decal by \$10 (currently \$240 for up to six people, and \$290 for seven or more). Also begins to charge fees to out-of-state anglers for certain recreational fishing licenses and decals.

This will be the first increase in license fees in more than a decade. Additional funds will be used to mitigate general fund reductions, enable species monitoring, prepare or revise fishery management plans, make fish hatchery improvements, assess and develop a cooperative landowner access program, and redevelop a Chesapeake Bay fishing reef coordination project.

<u>SB 61</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Vessel Operation - Regulations	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This is a departmental bill that allows the Natural Resources Police (NRP) to manage vessels based on type or size so that operations requirements may be directed toward specific types or sizes of vessels, rather than all vessels.

<u>SB 151</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Unfavorable Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senators Hooper, Astle, Brinkley, Colburn, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Kittleman, Stoltzfus, and Stone	
Entitled	Noxious Weeds - Mile-a-Minute Weed	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill would add mile-a-minute weed, otherwise known as Asiatic tearthumb or devil's tearthumb, to the State's list of weeds deemed noxious.

<u>SB 182</u>		
Sponsored By	The President (By Request - Administration) and Senators Astle, Brinkley, Colburn, Dyson, Greenip, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Hogan, Jacobs, Middleton, Mooney, Munson, Pipkin, and Stoltzfus	
Entitled	Water Quality Improvement Act - Nutrient Management	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 291</u>		
Sponsored By	The Speaker and the Minority Leader (By Request - Administration) and Delegates Edwards, Bartlett, Bates, Bohanan, Boutin, Cane, Conway, Cryor, Dwyer, Eckardt, Elliott, Elmore, Frank, Glassman, Haddaway, Hogan, Hubbard, Impallaria, James, Jameson, Jennings, Krebs, McComas, McConkey, McHale, McKee, Minnick, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Rudolph, Shank, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, Weldon, and Wood	
Entitled	Water Quality Improvement Act - Nutrient Management	

Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters
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These are Administration bills designed to make the State’s nutrient management law user-friendlier. The bills eliminates the requirement that farmers sign a statement granting right of entry to their farms as part of the nutrient management plan submittal process. This elimination will likely encourage more farmers to participate in the program. The Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA) will retain the ability to assess implementation of farmers’ plans. Under the bills, farmers would only need to submit a summary of their plans, including cumulative information related to implementation of plans, and will allow farmers to keep their plans on the farm. The bills change the submission requirements to a post-season approach where a farmer reports certain summary information about his operation and plan implementation for the season just completed. The renewal cycle for nutrient management consultants would be extended from one year to three. The bills authorize MDA to approve scientifically validated data or technical standards other than those of the University of Maryland to develop nutrient management plans. Finally, the bills authorize MDA to develop a process to contract private sector nutrient management plan development services for certain amounts or types of acres using cost-share funds.

SB 184	Bill is in the Senate - Unfavorable Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	The President (By Request - Administration) and Senators Astle, Brinkley, Colburn, Currie, Hafer, Hooper, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Munson, Schrader, Stoltzfus, and Stone	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Chesapeake Bay Recovery Fund	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 288	Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	The Speaker and the Minority Leader (By Request - Administration) and Delegates Edwards, Bartlett, Bates, Bobo, Boschert, Boutin, Bromwell, Cane, Cryor, Eckardt, Elliott, Elmore, Frank, Glassman, Haddaway, Harrison, Hubbard, Jennings, Kelly, Krebs, McComas, McKee, McMillan, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Rudolph, Shank, Smigiel, Sossi, Stocksdaile, Stull, Walkup, Weir, Weldon, Wood, and Zirkin	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Chesapeake Bay Recovery Fund	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These Administration bills will enable the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enter into agreements with non-profit, public charities to solicit and manage private contributions for large-scale Bay restoration projects, such as oyster restoration and Bay grass plantings. Voluntary contributions will come from private investors, corporations, foundations and individuals. Under the bills, a public charity will seek gifts for Bay restoration and handle the Fund’s administrative functions to ensure investor confidence. The Governor will establish an Advisory Commission to develop and implement innovative fundraising projects for Bay restoration. Additionally, the Advisory Commission will advise the Secretary DNR on the distribution of the Fund. The donations will be used only for Bay restoration projects and in accordance with investors’ wishes.

SB 186		
Sponsored By	The President (By Request - Administration) and Senators Astle, Brinkley, Brochin, Currie, Della, Dyson, Greenip, Hafer, Harris, Hollinger, Hooper, Jacobs, Jimeno, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Lawlah, Middleton, Munson, Schrader, Stoltzfus, and Stone	
Entitled	Brownfields Redevelopment Reform Act	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 294</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	The Speaker and the Minority Leader (By Request - Administration) and Delegates Edwards, Aumann, Bartlett, Barve, Bates, Boschert, Boteler, Boutin, Burns, Cane, V. Clagett, Costa, Cryor, Eckardt, Elmore, Frank, Frush, Glassman, Goldwater, Hammen, Hogan, Holmes, Hubbard, Kelly, Krebs, Leopold, Malone, Marriott, McComas, McConkey, McHale, McIntosh, Miller, Mitchell, Moe, Morhaim, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, O'Donnell, Owings, Parker, Parrott, Ross, Rudolph, Sossi, Stern, Stocksdale, Stull, Walkup, Weir, Weldon, and Wood	
Entitled	Brownfields Redevelopment Reform Act	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These Administration bills expand the number of contaminated properties eligible for the Voluntary Cleanup Program (VCP) in the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE), provide a more predictable cleanup process for prospective owners of eligible properties, reduce owners' costs associated with redevelopment, and decrease turnaround times. The bills increase public notification of cleanups by requiring applicants to post notice of all applications on the property site and MDE to post notice on its web site. They also require program participants to hold a public informational meeting for all approved cleanup plans. The legislation encourages participation in the VCP by broadening eligibility for grants and loans through the Brownfields Redevelopment Incentive Program in the Maryland Department of Business and Economic Development (DBED). This money will fund environmental site assessments and cleanups with newly eligible sites. While providing for a fair hearing process, the bills allow MDE to seek treble damages from parties who refuse to comply with an MDE order and fail to properly conduct remediation activities. This new authority will encourage compliance with MDE's environmental protection standards.

The bill was amended in the House to clarify that a person who fails to comply with a final order is subject to punitive damages not to exceed three times the amount of the costs incurred by the State. The bill also clarifies that a person's application will expire if they do not file for the application within six months of being approved as an inculpable person by MDE.

<u>SB 271</u>		
Sponsored By	Senator Stone	
Entitled	Vehicle Laws - Widths of Boat Trailers	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Judicial Proceedings	

<u>HB 528</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegates Minnick, Bohanan, Bromwell, Cane, Cluster, DeBoy, Eckardt, Frank, Impallaria, Jameson, Kach, Mitchell, Owings, Sossi, Walkup, Weir, and Wood	
Entitled	Vehicle Laws - Widths of Boat Trailers	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills allow for a width limit of 102 inches for a private boat trailer traveling from a point of origin to a boating, launching, repair or fuel facility "by the most practical route".

<u>SB 279</u>		
Sponsored By	Senators Grosfeld, Britt, Forehand, Gladden, Jones, Pinsky, Ruben, and Teitelbaum	

Entitled	Natural Resources - Leghold Traps - Prohibition	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
HB 498	Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Frush, Barkley, Benson, Bobo, Bronrott, Conroy, Cryor, Dumais, Feldman, Goldwater, Kaiser, Lee, Madaleno, Montgomery, Parker, Ross, Stern, and F. Turner	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Leghold Traps - Prohibition	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills define the term “leghold trap” and prohibit the use of these devices to capture any animal, with certain exceptions. Specific exceptions relate to the use of a leghold trap by DNR to address immediate human health or safety threats, and use of a leghold trap with a DNR permit. Permit issuance would require an application to DNR, a demonstration that the applicant has actual damage to property owned, leased or controlled, and that the applicant has attempted to abate the damage by the use of legal lethal or nonlethal control tools. Additionally, the bill would allow DNR to issue permits for the purpose of conducting legitimate scientific research and allow the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to use leghold traps to protect federally threatened or endangered species, in consultation with DNR.

SB 292		
Sponsored By	Senator Stoltzfus	
Entitled	Chesapeake Forest Lands - Public Access and Private Hunting Clubs - Lease Agreements	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill deletes the current requirement that 50% of Chesapeake Forest Lands be open to public hunting by a certain date, and creates a new Subtitle entitled “Chesapeake Forest Lands”. The bill also allows private Hunting Club Lease Agreements to be in effect from September 1 through January 31 (entire deer season). During this time period, the hunting club agreements shall contain exclusive right-of-entry. These agreements shall be for a term of five years and established at fair market value. The agreements would stipulate leaseholder responsibility for maintenance of roads, signs and gates, and requires notification to DNR when a club membership opens so DNR can then post notice of the opening. The bill would also require those tracts of Chesapeake Forest Lands subject to lease agreements be open to the public from February 1 through August 31.

SB 320	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 11 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	The President (By Request - Administration) and Senators Colburn, Haines, Hooper, Jacobs, Kittleman, Schrader, and Stoltzfus	
Entitled	Water Pollution - The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Fund	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 555	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	The Speaker and Minority Leader (By Request - Administration) and Delegates Amedori, Aumann, Bates, Costa, Cryor, Dwyer, Eckardt, Edwards, Elmore, Frank, Glassman, Haddaway, Hubbard, Jennings, Kelly, Krebs, Malone, McComas, McConkey, McIntosh, Minnick, O'Donnell, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, Walkup, Weir, Weldon, and Wood	

Entitled	Water Pollution - The Chesapeake Bay Watershed Restoration Fund
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters

These Administration bills will create a dedicated fund to upgrade the 66 largest sewage treatment plants to achieve state-of-the-art nutrient removal. An environmental surcharge will be set at \$2.50 per month per household; a surcharge on businesses will be based on the wastewater they generate. The Fund will be administered by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE). MDE will prioritize plants to be upgraded based on their ability to achieve the largest nutrient reductions to the Bay and its tributaries. These plants will be required to upgrade to “enhanced nutrient removal” (ENR). Construction of all 66 major sewage treatment plants can be initiated by 2009 and completed by 2011. Once the 66 plants have been completed, surplus in the Fund and the future revenue stream will be available to finance upgrades of the State’s smaller sewage treatment plants. Up to 10% of the Fund will be allocated to wastewater utilities to help offset the added operation and maintenance costs that result from upgrading plants, up to 3% of the Fund will be retained by the billing authorities to offset the cost of collection, and up to 1.5% of the surcharge will be allocated to MDE to cover financial management of the Fund and administrative costs of plant planning, design and construction. The legislation also establishes an Advisory Committee charged with identifying additional sources of funding, making recommendations to improve the effectiveness of the Fund, modifying the surcharge fee as necessary to meet the financing needs of the Fund, and advising the Secretary of MDE concerning the adoption of regulations governing the management and use of the Fund.

SB 375	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Astle	
Entitled	Food Establishments - Processing of Venison - Inspections	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 895	Bill is in the House - First Reading Health and Government Operations	Hearing MARCH 17 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates Boutin, Bartlett, Edwards, Elliott, Fulton, Glassman, Jennings, Kelly, McComas, McKee, Myers, Oaks, O'Donnell, Owings, Stull, and Weir	
Entitled	Food Establishments - Processing of Venison - Inspections	
Committee Assignments	House: Health and Government Operations	

These bills allow the processing of lawfully obtained venison for donation to the needy to be done without all of the inspections currently required by the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

SB 392	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Senators Middleton and Dyson	
Entitled	Young Farmers Advisory Board	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 755</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Wood, Bartlett, Bohanan, Bozman, Conway, Donoghue, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Elmore, Glassman, Haddaway, Hennessy, James, Jameson, Kelly, Krebs, McKee, Mitchell, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Smigiel, Sossi, Stocksdale, Stull, Walkup, and Weldon	
Entitled	Young Farmers Advisory Board	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills create a Young Farmers Advisory Board in the Maryland Department of Agriculture (MDA). The Board consists of 12 members, including a representative from the Forestry program within DNR. The Board is to identify and address issues relating to young and beginning farmers in Maryland, and make recommendations to the Maryland Agricultural Commission. The Board shall sunset on September 30, 2007.

<u>SB 403</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Withdrawn Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Klausmeier	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Fishery Management - Shad	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 773</u>	Bill is in the House - Withdrawn Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Rudolph, Boutin, James, and Smigiel	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Fishery Management - Shad	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

<u>SB 415</u>		
Sponsored By	Senators Stone, Miller, Astle, Brinkley, Britt, Brochin, Colburn, Conway, Currie, DeGrange, Della, Dyson, Exum, Forehand, Frosh, Garagiola, Giannetti, Gladden, Green, Greenip, Grosfeld, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Hogan, Hollinger, Hooper, Hughes, Jacobs, Jimeno, Jones, Kasemeyer, Kelley, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lawlah, McFadden, Middleton, Mooney, Munson, Pinsky, Pipkin, Ruben, Schrader, Stoltzfus, and Teitelbaum	
Entitled	Hurricane Isabel Disaster Relief Act	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 3</u>		
Sponsored By	The Speaker and Delegates McIntosh, Arnick, Barkley, Benson, Bobo, Bromwell, Bronrott, Busch, Cadden, Cane, Cardin, G. Clagett, V. Clagett, Conroy, Conway, Costa, D. Davis, DeBoy, Doory, Dumais, Edwards, Feldman, Franchot, Griffith, Harrison, Healey, Hixson, Howard, Hurson, James, Jones, Kaiser, Kelley, King, Kirk, Krysiak, Lee, Love, Madaleno, Malone, Mandel, Marriott, McConkey, McHale, Menes, Minnick, Moe, Montgomery, O'Donnell, Pendergrass, Proctor, Ramirez, Rosenberg, Sophocleus, Sossi, Taylor, V. Turner, Vallario, and Vaughn	
Entitled	Hurricane Isabel Disaster Relief Act	
Committee	House: Environmental Matters	

Assignments	
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These bills establish a Hurricane Isabel Housing Rehabilitation and Renovation Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development. The Program is designed to benefit families whose primary residences were damaged by Hurricane Isabel. As amended in the House, the Program shall include projects in which DHCD provides low interest loans for first or subordinate mortgages, or credit enhancements for loans obtained in the private market for rehabilitation, renovation, or replacement of primary residences. The House also added language that would have the Program include coverage for repair or replacement of water and sewer systems, including septic systems. The amendments also include a final report on the implementation of this Act by DHCD due by September 30, 2005

<u>SB 429</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Conway	
Entitled	Recreational Vessels - Personal Flotation Devices for Children - Additional Requirements	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill will mandate additional requirements regarding the wearing of personal floatation devices by children under seven years of age or who weigh 50 pounds or less while onboard recreational vessels. The bill also would require additional safety features and precautions on personal floatation devices worn by children under four years of age, including a web handle and a strap to be secured between the child’s legs.

<u>SB 452</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Astle (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup)	
Entitled	State Boat Act - Waterway Improvement Fund - Authorized Uses	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 538</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Delegate Conway (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup) and Delegates Bohanan, Bozman, Cadden, Cane, Eckardt, Mitchell, Owings, Rudolph, and Wood	
Entitled	State Boat Act - Waterway Improvement Fund - Authorized Uses	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills repeal obsolete provisions of the State Boat Act, and increase the amount of Waterway Improvement Fund (WIF) monies that may be used for marine operations by the Natural Resources Police (NRP). The bills are as a result of recommendations from the DNR Special Funds Workgroup created by committee narrative in the 2002 *Joint Chairmen’s Report*.

<u>SB 480</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Budget and Taxation	
Sponsored By	Senators Dyson and Munson	
Entitled	Property Tax - Assessment of Conservation Property	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Budget and Taxation	

<u>HB 1106</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Ways and Means	
Sponsored By	Delegates James, Bobo, Cardin, Elmore, and Stull	
Entitled	Property Tax - Assessment of Conservation Property	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

These bills change the way certain Maryland Environmental Trust easement donations subject to a property tax credit are assessed after the expiration of the 15-year credit. The bills require the State Department of Assessment and Taxation to assess land under easement at no greater than the lowest agricultural tax rate. The bills would also grandfather in those property owners that donated conservation easements before the 1986 property tax legislation was passed.

<u>SB 481</u>		
Sponsored By	Senators Dyson, Currie, Munson, and Stoltzfus	
Entitled	Income Tax Credit for Preservation and Conservation Easements - County Tax Credit Authorized	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Budget and Taxation	

<u>HB 1086</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Ways and Means	
Sponsored By	Delegates James, Bobo, Heller, McComas, and McIntosh	
Entitled	Income Tax Credit for Preservation and Conservation Easements - County Tax Credit Authorized	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

These bills enable county governments to enact local legislation to give a county income tax credit for preservation and conservation easements.

<u>SB 482</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Senator Dyson (Chairman, Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area) and Senators Colburn, Grosfeld, Stoltzfus, Stone, Frosh, and Della	
Entitled	Real Property Sales - Disclosure Requirements - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Judicial Proceedings	

<u>HB 1030</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 18 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Frush (Chairman, Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area) and Delegates Cadden, James, Owings, Walkup, Hubbard, and McConkey	
Entitled	Real Property Sales - Disclosure Requirements - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills would require a separate piece of paper to a contract or an addendum to the contract for the sale of real property that would conspicuously advise the buyer that they are buying property where all or part of it may be located in the “critical area”, and that the buyer may be subject to additional zoning, land use, and resource protection regulations as a result of such a purchase. The statement goes on to describe generally what constitutes a “critical area”.

<u>SB 492</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Budget and Taxation	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Astle	
Entitled	Vessel Excise Tax - Exemption - Charter Service	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Budget and Taxation	

<u>HB 847</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Ways and Means	
Sponsored By	Delegate Edwards	
Entitled	Vessel Excise Tax - Exemption - Charter Service	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

These bills would exempt vessels placed into charter service from the excise tax, and expand the definition of “dealer” to include a charter business that uses vessels for charter service.

<u>SB 536</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Budget and Taxation	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Astle	
Entitled	Vessel Excise Tax - Exemption - Vessel Commissioning	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Budget and Taxation	

<u>HB 848</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Ways and Means	
Sponsored By	Delegate Edwards	
Entitled	Vessel Excise Tax - Exemption - Vessel Commissioning	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

These bills define commissioning procedures as the initial outfitting of a vessel immediately after the purchase of the vessel, and would allow for time spent on commissioning procedures to not count against the 90 days a vessel is allowed to cruise Maryland waters before becoming subject to the vessel excise tax.

<u>SB 554</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Stoltzfus	

Entitled	Coastal Bays Fishing Guide License - Establishment
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs

This bill, as written, would establish a new Coastal Bays Fishing Guide License for a person who provides finfish fishing guide services for compensation. The license would be valid in the tidal waters of the Atlantic Coastal Bays watershed, including Assawoman Bay, Isle of Wight Bay, St. Martin River, Sinepuxent Bay, Chincoteague Bay, and Newport Bay. The bill provides for 30 such licenses, and that DNR shall issue said license beginning September 1, 2004. The license may be renewed for an additional term upon meeting required criteria. The bill sets the cost for said license at \$50 for residents, and \$100 for nonresidents. These monies shall be credited equally to the Fisheries Management and Protection Fund and the Fisheries Research and Development Fund.

SB 589	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Budget and Taxation	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senators Munson, Middleton, Brinkley, Colburn, Dyson, Hafer, Haines, Harris, Hooper, Jacobs, Kittleman, Klausmeier, Kramer, Mooney, Pipkin, and Stoltzfus	
Entitled	2020 Rural Maryland - Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Act	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Budget and Taxation	

This bill would establish the, “Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation”. The bill would provide a mechanism to provide capital for agriculture and resource-based industries to use to develop new operations or to improve existing operations.

SB 640	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Astle (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Special Funds and Accounts - Administrative Costs	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 1258	Bill is in the House - Re-assigned Appropriations	Hearing MARCH 10 11:00 a.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Conway (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup) and Delegates Bozman, Cadden, Cane, Love, Owings, and Rudolph	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Special Funds and Accounts - Administrative Costs	
Committee Assignments	House: Appropriations	

These bills are as a result of the DNR Special Funds Workgroup. The bills add a provision to most of DNR’s special funds specifically authorizing the department to charge each fund for indirect costs. The legislation also mandates that DNR use a “generally accepted methodology for determining indirect costs”.

SB 642	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Astle	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Boating - Disclosure of Personal Information	

Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs
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HB 1163	Bill is in the House - First Reading Health and Government Operations	Hearing MARCH 18 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates McMillan, Brown, Kelly, Simmons, and Zirkin	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Boating - Disclosure of Personal Information	
Committee Assignments	House: Health and Government Operations	

These bills would allow the release of personal information to legitimate business entities seeking data required to verify the accuracy of personal information; or to obtain correct information to prevent fraud, pursue legal remedies, or recover on a debt or security interest against the individual.

SB 666	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 11 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Colburn	
Entitled	Secretary of Natural Resources - Consideration of Information and Research	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill mandates that the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources consider the best scientific, economic, and biological information and research available in the formulation of department-initiated legislative or regulatory proposals.

SB 670	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 11 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Colburn	
Entitled	Dorchester County - Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Piers	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill proposes to exempt Dorchester County from requirements of the Critical Area Criteria dealing with private piers in newly created residential subdivisions. The Criteria and Dorchester County's local Critical Area Program currently specify that when the developer of a new subdivision chooses to construct a community pier with boat docking facilities for the residents of the subdivision, private piers are not allowed on the subdivision's riparian lots.

SB 671	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 11 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Colburn	
Entitled	Dorchester County - Right to Harvest Seafood	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill would authorize the Dorchester County Council to take any action the Council considers necessary to protect a person's right to harvest seafood, and requires the Council to hold a hearing before taking such action.

SB 674	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Colburn	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Finfish - Bait	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 1214	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate O'Donnell	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Finfish - Bait	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills will provide a license exemption for a person that catches and sells baitfish. The bills will authorize DNR to define and list baitfish eligible to be harvested and sold as baitfish by regulation.

SB 675	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 11 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Colburn	
Entitled	Study of Nonnative Oyster Species - Findings of the National Academy of Sciences	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

This bill repeals the current requirement that the study of a nonnative oyster species proceed in accordance with certain findings of the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), and instead requires that the NAS findings be included in the study to the extent possible.

SB 694	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Dyson (Chairman, Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area) and Senators Grosfeld, Stone, and Frosh	
Entitled	Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Miscellaneous Enforcement Provisions	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

HB 1009	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Frush (Chairman, Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area) and Delegates Cadden, James, Owings, Walkup, Barkley, Barve, Bobo, Bronrott, Brown, Busch, Cane, V. Clagett, Conroy, Cryor, Doory, Dumais, Feldman, Gaines, Gilleland, Glassman, Goldwater, Gordon, Griffith, Healey, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Hurson, Jennings, Jones, King, Lee, Leopold, Madaleno, Malone, Mandel, McConkey, McIntosh, McKee, Menes, Moe, Montgomery, Morhaim, Murray, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Parker, Patterson, Pendergrass, Petzold, Proctor, Quinter, Ramirez, Ross, Shank, Simmons, Sophocleus, Sossi, Stern, Stull, Taylor, F.	

	Turner, V. Turner, Vallario, Vaughn, and Weir
Entitled	Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Miscellaneous Enforcement Provisions
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters

These bills propose to restore local Critical Area protection standards and to enhance local enforcement techniques established by the Critical Area Act and Criteria. The bills authorize local governments to increase fines for violations of their Critical Area regulations from \$500 to up to \$10,000. They also provide local governments the option to refer violations to the Critical Area Commission and the Attorney General for prosecution.

<u>SB 702</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senators Hooper and Colburn	
Entitled	Weed Control - Property Used for Nonagricultural Purposes	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>SB 762</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Astle (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup)	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Fee Commission - Establishment	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Senate Rules	

<u>HB 1259</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Conway (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup) and Delegate Owings	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Fee Commission - Establishment	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills are as a result of the DNR Special Funds Workgroup, created in the 2002 Joint Chairman's Report. The bills propose to create a fee commission within DNR comprised of public stakeholders (not the department). The commission would recommend fee changes to the department. DNR would then propose the changes through the regulatory process. The Legislature will maintain oversight authority of any fee changes, as the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Review (AELR) Committee will review any proposed changes.

<u>SB 771</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Pinsky	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Logging Impact Report	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Senate Rules	

<u>HB 867</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegates Montgomery, Barkley, Barve, Bobo, Bronrott, Frush, Glassman, Hubbard, Moe, and Parker	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Logging Impact Report	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills would require DNR to prepare and submit a report on the cumulative impacts of logging on State Forests over the past 30 years. An initial report would include an assessment of forest fragmentation and logging practices on forest species and water quality. Then every three years DNR would be required to submit a report describing the environmental impacts of logging on State Forests, how logging activities and regulations have changed, and make recommendations on methods of reducing and correcting environmental impacts resulting from logging activities.

<u>SB 789</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Pinsky	
Entitled	Forest or Park Reserve Fund - Use of Revenues from Timber Harvesting	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Senate Rules	

<u>HB 868</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegates Montgomery, Barkley, Barve, Bobo, Bronrott, Frush, Hubbard, McConkey, Moe, and Parker	
Entitled	Forest or Park Reserve Fund - Use of Revenues from Timber Harvesting	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills require that revenue derived from the sale of timber on State Forests be used by DNR, after required county payments are made, exclusively for the following purposes: 1) inventory, protection and restoration of forest interior species and habitats; 2) invasive species eradication; and 3) acquisition and protection of forests that DNR shall make ineligible for timber harvesting.

<u>SB 795</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Senator Dyson (Chairman, Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area)	
Entitled	Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Dwelling Units	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Senate Rules	

<u>HB 1345</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegate Frush (Chairman, Joint Committee on the Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area)	
Entitled	Chesapeake and Atlantic Coastal Bays Critical Area Protection Program - Dwelling Units	
Committee Assignments	House: House Rules and Executive Nominations	

These bills define dwelling unit to mean a single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for at least one person, and includes a living quarters for a domestic or other employee or tenant, an in-law or accessory apartment, a guest house, or a caretaker residence. The bills provide that, in calculating the 1-in-20 acre density of development that is permitted on a parcel located within the resource conservation area, a local jurisdiction shall count each dwelling unit.

<u>SB 811</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Klausmeier	
Entitled	Natural Resources Police - Transfer to the Department of State Police	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 1406</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegates Cadden and Conway	
Entitled	Natural Resources Police - Transfer to the Department of State Police	
Committee Assignments	House: House Rules and Executive Nominations	

<u>SB 841</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Astle	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Electronic System for Transactions	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs	

<u>HB 654</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegates Boutin, Amedori, Aumann, Bozman, Bromwell, Cane, Costa, Edwards, Glassman, Leopold, Mitchell, Oaks, O'Donnell, Owings, Sossi, Stocksdales, and Weldon	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Electronic Transactions	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

These bills will allow DNR to adopt regulations necessary to establish on-line sales of licenses, permits or registrations.

<u>SB 859</u>	Bill is in the Senate - Re-referred Education Health and Environmental Affairs	Hearing MARCH 11 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Senator Astle (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup)	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Administration of Special Funds and Accounts	
Committee Assignments	Senate: Education Health and Environmental Affairs and Budget and Taxation	

<u>HB 1414</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegate Conway (Department of Natural Resources Special Funds Workgroup)	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Administration of Special Funds and Accounts	
Committee Assignments	House: House Rules and Executive Nominations	

These bills are as a result of the DNR Special Funds Workgroup, created in the 2002 Joint Chairman's Report. The bills update DNR's special fund statutes to the currently accepted special fund format. The bills also provide that the special funds enumerated in the legislation will accrue the interest earned on the accounts.

<u>HB 22</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Health and Government Operations	Hearing MARCH 12 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Hubbard	
Entitled	State Gem - The Patuxent River Stone	
Committee Assignments	House: Health and Government Operations	

Establishes the Patuxent River Stone as the State gem.

<u>HB 90</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Oysters - Public Notice and Harvest Reserve Areas	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a departmental bill that allows DNR more flexibility in managing oyster harvest reserve areas with respect to disease conditions and mortality rates that may affect the productivity and utility of harvest reserve areas. It provides for guidelines for the opening of any harvest reserve area, including biological criteria and consultation with the Oyster Recovery Partnership and Tidal Fish Advisory Commission. The bill modifies the publication requirement when opening or closing a natural oyster bar, or modifying a catch limit, to one or more newspapers of general circulation in the counties of affected waters (instead of in ALL counties), and on the DNR website.

The bill was amended to clarify the notification requirements. The bill as amended adds the requirement of notification in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the state, in addition to one or more newspapers of general circulation in the counties of affected waters and on the DNR website. HB90 has passed the House as amended.

<u>HB 101</u>	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Vessels - Accident Reports	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a departmental, corrective bill to amend Maryland's boat accident reporting requirement law so that it corresponds to U.S. Coast Guard criteria, which requires a boating accident property damage report be filed only if the damage is \$2,000 or more.

HB 129	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Delegate Edwards	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Jennings Randolph Lake Project Compact - Criminal Law Enforcement	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill requests General Assembly concurrence to amend the Jennings Randolph Lake Project Compact. The bill would authorize Natural Resources Police officers to enforce criminal laws on the Jennings Randolph Lake Project. This authority to enforce criminal laws will be in addition to the existing authority to enforce natural resources and boating laws.

HB 181		
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Department of Natural Resources - Vessel Fees - State Boat Act Fund	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a departmental bill that allows DNR to raise various boating related fees, many of which have not been revised since the mid 1960's and 1970's. The bill also strikes language relating to a \$5 service charge for returned checks, since there is current authority to collect up to \$35 for a dishonored check. Finally, the bill conforms the statutory structure of the State Boat Act Fund to its current use as a Special Fund.

HB 233	Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Weir, Impallaria, Jennings, and Minnick	
Entitled	Water and Sewer - Lots - Sewer Connections	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill proposes to require local Critical Area Programs to provide one sewer connection to both parcels in the Resource Conservation Area (RCA) created under the intrafamily transfer provisions of the law, and to grandfathered parcels smaller than 20 acres in the RCA.

HB 308	Bill is in the Senate - First Reading Education Health and Environmental Affairs	
Sponsored By	Delegates Elmore, Boteler, Bozman, Cane, DeBoy, Haddaway, Jennings, McConkey, McKee, Sophocleus, and Sossi	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Oysters - Dredge Devices	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill proposes to repeal the prohibition on allowing the captain or any other person to possess or use a “devil catcher” or “devil diver”, or similar device on any dredge boat to be attached to the dredge for steering it to the bottom.

HB 451	Bill is in the House - Unfavorable Environmental Matters	
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Sponsored By	Delegates Frush, Barkley, Bobo, Bronrott, Conroy, Feldman, Goldwater, Hubbard, Lee, Madaleno, Moe, Montgomery, Parker, Stern, Taylor, and Zirkin
Entitled	Natural Resources - Black Bear Hunt - Moratorium
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters

This bill would remove black bear from the list of defined “forest game mammals”. It would also prohibit DNR from reducing the black bear population unless in defense of a person, property or domesticated animal, or after exhausting all nonlethal methods of resolving problems caused by black bears. The bill prohibits DNR from establishing a black bear hunting season until July 1, 2010. DNR would also be required to conduct a survey of the black bear population commencing July 1, 2009. A report of such findings would be due to the Governor and the environment committees of the General Assembly by December 1, 2009.

HB 470		
Sponsored By	Delegates Jennings, Boteler, Boutin, Cane, Cluster, Elmore, Frank, Glassman, Hogan, Impallaria, James, McComas, McConkey, McDonough, McKee, Myers, O'Donnell, Owings, and Shank	
Entitled	Income Tax Checkoffs - Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund and Rural Legacy Program	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

This bill would require the Comptroller to include on the individual income tax return form checkoffs designated as the “Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Fund Contribution” and the “Rural Legacy Program Contribution”. Income tax filers may deduct any amount they wish to contribute from any refund owed them or, if a refund is not owed, may add the amount of any contribution to the income tax to be paid with the return.

HB 492		
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Waterfowl Outfitter and Waterfowl Hunting Guide Licenses	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a departmental bill that would create a two-tiered waterfowl license system, while repealing the current license structure. This bill would establish a waterfowl outfitter license at \$300 annually, and a waterfowl hunting guide license at \$50 annually. The waterfowl hunting guide is defined as an employee of a waterfowl outfitter. This is designed to limit the impact of commercial waterfowl hunting on the State’s waterfowl resource, as current law allows any person wishing to take hunters for hire to do so by simply providing the current \$100 annual fee. The bill allows DNR to adopt regulations to implement this proposal, including minimum qualifications and conduct standards for an outfitter and guide. This also allows DNR to suspend or revoke an outfitter’s license based on convictions of a guide’s violations while under employment of the outfitter. This proposal is as a result of recommendations from DNR’s Wildlife Advisory Commission.

HB 495		
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Environment)	
Entitled	Water Management Administration - Wetlands and Waterways Programs Fees	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) departmental bill. The bill establishes a Wetlands and Waterways Program Fund, to be funded through fees collected by MDE for conservation, regulation and monitoring activities, and program development activities as they relate to tidal and nontidal wetlands and waterways. MDE shall consult with representatives of the regulated communities in adopting such rules or regulations. The Wetlands and Waterways Program Fund shall be used for program development and management of the State's wetlands and waterways, and for "removal of waterway obstructions". This bill also defines "marina" as "a facility for the mooring, docking, or storing of more than 10 vessels on tidal navigable waters". It then sets a \$50 per slip fee for any owner of any public or private commercial marina constructed over state wetlands. The bill also provides for additional revenue to be deposited into the Tidal Wetlands Compensation Fund through any monetary compensation paid in lieu of creation, restoration, or enhancement of a tidal wetland, and any related civil or criminal penalty. Funds in the Tidal Wetlands Compensation Fund may then be used for creation, restoration, or enhancement of tidal wetlands.

HB 496		
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Wildlife Management Programs - Fees	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a departmental bill that would allow DNR to establish, by regulation, fees for managed hunts and for access to Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). The fees are not to exceed \$30.

HB 503	Bill is in the House - Re-assigned Economic Matters	
Sponsored By	Chairman, Economic Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Environmental Trust Fund - Extension of Environmental Surcharge	
Committee Assignments	House: Economic Matters	

This bill simply extends the sunset on the environmental surcharge on electricity generated within the State from 2005 to 2010.

HB 619		
Sponsored By	Delegate Edwards	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Hunting - Reporting of Deer Kill	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill repeals provisions in current law prohibiting a person from removing the head or hide or any part from any deer. The bill would allow persons to report deer kill within 24 hours to designated checking stations with either the unskinned deer or with the fresh skin and head of the deer.

HB 713	Bill is in the House - Withdrawn Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegate Weir	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Scenic and Wild Rivers Program	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

<u>HB 739</u>		
Sponsored By	Delegates Cluster, Boteler, Aumann, Boschert, Boutin, DeBoy, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Frank, Glassman, Hennessy, Hogan, Impallaria, Jennings, Kach, Leopold, McComas, McDonough, Miller, Myers, Smigiel, Sossi, Stull, Walkup, and Weldon	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Fish and Fisheries - Recreational Tidal Fishing Guide License	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

<u>HB 768</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Ways and Means	
Sponsored By	Delegates Bobo, V. Clagett, and Glassman	
Entitled	Income Tax Credit for Preservation and Conservation Easements - Transferability	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

This bill allows a property owner who conveys an easement to the Maryland Environmental Trust or the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation to transfer any unused portion of their allowable income tax credit to another Maryland taxpayer. The Comptroller's office would establish procedures for transfer of any credits.

<u>HB 783</u>	Bill is in the House - Withdrawn Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Cane, Jennings, Bozman, Conway, Elmore, Cluster, Eckardt, Hogan, McConkey, Owings, Rudolph, Sossi, Stull, and Weir	
Entitled	Environment - Sediment Control Plans for Forest Harvest Operations - Term	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

<u>HB 820</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Ways and Means	
Sponsored By	Delegates V. Clagett and Jennings	
Entitled	Property Tax and Transfer and Recordation Taxes - Land Trusts - Credits and Exemptions	
Committee Assignments	House: Ways and Means	

This bill includes a 15-year tax credit from State and local property taxes for land under conservation easements donated to DNR. It also enables local jurisdictions to grant a similar tax credit on property or land owned by a land trust that meets specific statutory requirements. The bill exempts land trusts from recordation and transfer taxes for fee or conservation easement purchases that meet specific statutory requirements.

<u>HB 880</u>	Status as of February 25, 2004: Bill is in the House - Re-assigned Appropriations	Hearing MARCH 9 11:00 a.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates James, Barkley, Bobo, Cardin, G. Clagett, Conroy, Heller, Howard, Hubbard, Kaiser, Leopold, Madaleno, Mandel, Nathan-Pulliam, Ramirez, Ross, Rudolph, and F. Turner	
Entitled	Transfer Tax Special Fund - Repayment of Transfers to the General Fund	

Committee Assignments	House: Appropriations
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This bill requires the State to pay back money taken from the transfer tax special funds in 2002, 2003 and 2004. The proposed payback would be in increments of \$20 million per year until the total is repaid.

HB 906	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Chairman, Environmental Matters Committee (By Request - Departmental - Natural Resources)	
Entitled	Hunting - Furbearing Mammals	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This is a departmental bill. The bill would create a new “Furbearer Stamp” and “Fox Chasing Group License”, specifies those activities for which this stamp or license would be required, and provides for educational requirements for said activities. Any person (including landowners) who traps, hunts, chases, or otherwise pursues fur-bearing mammals or nutria will be required to possess a valid Furbearer Stamp or, if fox chasing only, participate with an organization that has obtained a Fox Chasing Group License. Persons who participate in the unarmed passive observation of dogs chasing furbearing mammals, or unarmed nonresidents participating in an organized raccoon chase accompanied by a Maryland resident, would be exempt from the stamp/license requirement. The bill also makes certain clarifications to current law, and would allow DNR to establish, by regulation, the fee and criteria for the Fox Chasing Group License.

HB 1100	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Kach and V. Clagett	
Entitled	Natural Landscape Design - Noxious Weeds - Prohibitions	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill creates a new subtitle in the Agriculture article entitled, “Natural Landscape Design”. As written, the bill is designed to allow a person to grow native or naturalized plants as part of a natural landscape design.

HB 1158	Bill is in the House - First Reading Health and Government Operations	Hearing MARCH 16 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates McDonough, Boteler, and Impallaria	
Entitled	Homeland Security Fund	
Committee Assignments	House: Health and Government Operations	

HB 1179	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	
Sponsored By	Delegates Wood, Elmore, McKee, Glassman, Amedori, Bartlett, Bohanan, Boutin, Bozman, Cane, G. Clagett, Conway, Donoghue, Eckardt, Edwards, Elliott, Haddaway, Hennessy, Hogan, James, Jameson, Kelly, Krebs, McComas, McConkey, Mitchell, Myers, O'Donnell, Owings, Parrott, Proctor, Rudolph, Shank, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Sossi, Stocksdaile, Stull, Vallario, Walkup and Weldon	
Entitled	Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment - Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development	
Committee	House: Environmental Matters	

Assignments	
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This bill would establish the, “Rural Maryland Prosperity Investment Program” and the, “Maryland Agricultural and Resource-Based Industry Development Corporation”. The bill would provide a mechanism to provide capital for agriculture and resource-based industries to use to develop new operations or to improve existing operations.

<u>HB 1227</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates O'Donnell and McIntosh	
Entitled	Calvert and St. Mary's Counties - Shellfish - Harvesting by Wharf Owners	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill will enable the owner of a wharf or similar structure in Calvert and St. Mary’s Counties to grow and harvest shellfish from certain containers around the wharf or structure, and gives exclusive use of the shellfish to the structure owner.

<u>HB 1263</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 10 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates Walkup, Cadden, Love, Rudolph, Sophocleus, Sossi, and Stull	
Entitled	Dredge Deposits - Creation of Artificial Islands in the Chesapeake Bay - Prohibited Use as Part of Management Plan	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill would prohibit the depositing of dredge material to create artificial islands in the Chesapeake Bay from being part of the development or implementation of any plan or program for the management of dredged material or for the protection or development of the Bay.

<u>HB 1264</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 9 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Weir	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Tidal Fisheries - Nets	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

This bill will establish a minimum distance between fyke nets and pound nets as 400 feet, and will repeal prohibitions on the use of stake nets, as they are not currently defined as a legal commercial gear type.

<u>HB 1279</u>	Bill is in the House - First Reading Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 17 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegates Weir, Donoghue, Gilleland, McKee, Myers, and Shank	
Entitled	Vehicle Laws - Off-Highway Vehicles - Titling and Registration	
Committee Assignments	House: Environmental Matters	

HB 1335	Bill is in the House - Re-referred Environmental Matters	Hearing MARCH 19 1:00 p.m.
Sponsored By	Delegate Edwards	
Entitled	Natural Resources - Hunting License Requirements - Exceptions	
Committee Assignments	House: House Rules and Executive Nominations	

HB 1471		
Sponsored By	Delegates Walkup, Aumann, Boschert, Bozman, Cadden, Cane, V. Clagett, Conroy, Conway, Costa, Donoghue, Dwyer, Eckardt, Elmore, Franchot, Frank, Frush, Gilleland, Haddaway, Howard, Hubbard, Kach, Krebs, Leopold, Love, McConkey, McHale, McMillan, Minnick, O'Donnell, Parrott, Proctor, Rudolph, Smigiel, Sophocleus, and Sossi	
Entitled	Dredge Material Disposal Alternatives Act of 2004	
Committee Assignments	House: House Rules and Executive Nominations	